

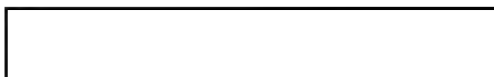
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Central Intelligence Bulletin

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DIA and DOS review(s) completed.



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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: The pace of the ground war in South Vietnam quickened yesterday, with heavy fighting reported in the northern and central provinces.

US Marines killed 72 Communist troops in two operations designed to secure lines of communication between Da Nang and Tam Ky, the capital of Quang Tin Province.

In Phu Yen Province an estimated enemy battalion lost 48 killed during an unsuccessful two-hour assault against elements of a South Vietnamese Army regiment. The attacking force may have been part of the North Vietnamese Army's 95th Regiment which has become increasingly aggressive in recent weeks. [REDACTED]
(Map)

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Nigeria: [A federal military attack on the break-away Eastern Region of Nigeria is still threatened.]

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[redacted] the US defense attaché in Lagos believes it may not be made for a week or ten days. Federal planners continue to stress unresolved logistical problems as the reason an attack has not been made.

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[Governor Ojukwu of "Biafra," as the East now calls itself, exuded confidence during a conversation with US and UK representatives on 15 June. He said he anticipated that the federal forces' main thrust would come not from the North but would be made in the coastal areas, which are inhabited by minority tribesmen Gowon wants to separate from Ibo control. He dismissed as "laughable" the thought of an amphibious invasion through the miles of mangrove swamps and winding creeks in the coastal areas.]

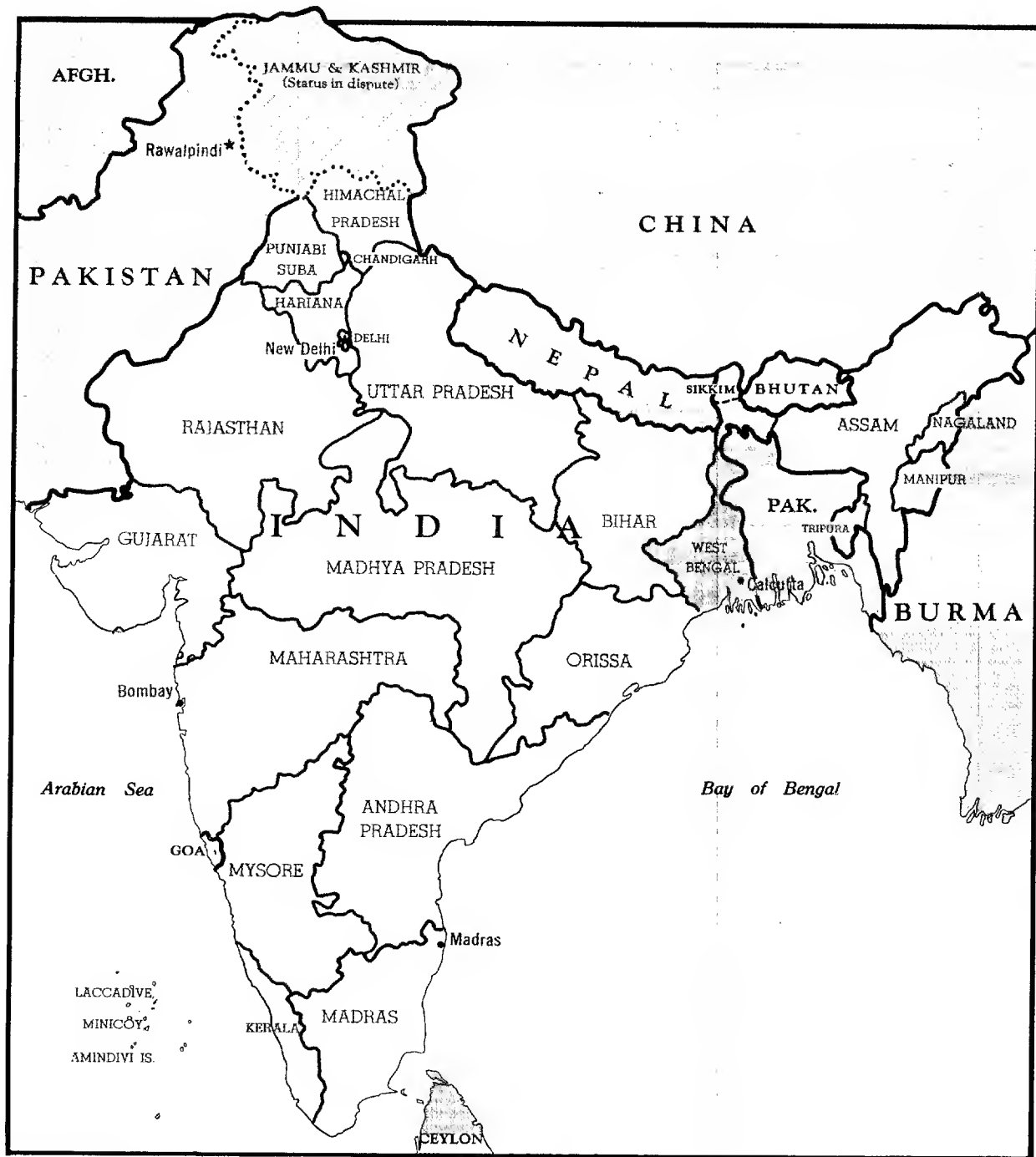
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[The "Biafran" army may now include six infantry battalions, with over 2,000 men in the vital Port Harcourt area alone. Many only recently began to receive military training, however. Ojukwu has as many as ten helicopters-- some of which may be armed--and several patrol boats.]

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17 Jun 67 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN Map

India: [The deteriorating public security situation in West Bengal appears to have brought the leftist coalition government in that important state to the brink of collapse]

[According to West Bengal Congress Party assessments, the United Front coalition government--in which the radical left Communists (CPI/L) are the largest single element--may collapse before the state legislature reconvenes on 26 June. The coalition's more moderate partners are said to be angered by recent outbreaks of violence and Communist-encouraged lawlessness. Moreover, the CPI/L, sharply split over whether to adhere to its revolutionary doctrines or to emphasize parliamentary tactics, reportedly may itself withdraw from the coalition in order not to strain party solidarity further.]

[Congress leaders claim to have enough votes to topple the coalition in a test of strength, but they hope the leftists will be defeated from within.]

[If the coalition falls on its own account, the Congress Party will probably not attempt to form a new government until after a period of direct rule from New Delhi. Congress leaders would hope that in this way the state party could avoid the opprobrium of having to put down the violence they believe the Communists would stir up.]

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NOTES

Communist China - India: Yesterday's attack on Peking's embassy in New Delhi by Indian demonstrators will probably lead to retaliatory violence against Indian diplomats in Peking. There have been bitter diplomatic recriminations since 13 June, when Peking expelled two Indian Embassy personnel for alleged espionage activities. A formal break in relations is unlikely, however; ties have been maintained even during periods of border tension and hostilities.

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Hong Kong: [Communists in the colony are playing up Peking's contribution of nearly US \$2 million to a Hong Kong "struggle fund" in an apparent effort to bolster the sagging morale of strikers. The majority of workers have ignored recent strike calls, and there has been no serious slowdown in business activity. Local Communists have been attempting to maintain momentum through a virulent anti-British poster campaign, however, despite a recent police crackdown on such activity.]

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